The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque is working with the Orton Family Foundation to use the innovative Community Heart & Soul™ community visioning process with rural towns in Iowa and the surrounding Midwest region.
Many small towns do not have the financial resources or personnel to undertake strategic planning efforts. Faced with the opportunities and challenges of the moment, community leaders often struggle to create strategies for long-lasting and meaningful community impact. With these realities in mind, the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque is committed to partnering with our rural towns to inspire philanthropic investment in the projects that matter most.

**Increase the Impact of Rural Philanthropy**

The Community Heart & Soul™ process involves an exploration of a community’s deeply shared values. Once these are identified, philanthropic giving can be directed towards projects that will strengthen these core values. By uncovering a community’s needs and desires, the process also helps leaders raise funds, write grants, and generate broad-based support for projects.

**Cultivate the Next Generation**

Many rural communities struggle to recruit younger residents for leadership positions. The Community Heart & Soul process brings these new voices to the table, gives them a stake in decisions about the future, and offers them new ways to serve as leaders.

**Create a Network of Innovative Community Leaders**

As more communities in the Midwest undertake the Community Heart & Soul process, we will create a “community of practice” for people who are seeking a better future for their rural communities. Leaders will share tools, help each other solve problems, and generate new ideas to address the challenges in our rural regions.

**About Community Heart & Soul**

Over the course of 18–24 months, a Heart & Soul project coordinator guides a community through a four-phase process that methodically explores the community, identifies core values, and aligns priorities, projects, and resources to strengthen the community and make it more resilient. The process is guided by three key principles: 1) Involve everyone; 2) Focus on what matters; 3) Play the long game. For more details and examples of towns that have used Community Heart & Soul, visit www.orton.org/heart-soul

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If you would like to make a donation to support Community Heart & Soul work in Eastern Iowa, please make checks payable to CFGD/Heart & Soul or contact the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque.

For additional information

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Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque

Community Heart & Soul
Guided by what matters most

A partnership of the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and the Orton Family Foundation for the greater Iowa/Midwest area.

Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations